

1. Rock Carvings

Activity 1.1: Dictionary practice. PDF print exercise page

Go through the text above again and highlight or underline any words that you are not sure about or need to know the meaning of. Copy these words into the spaces in the table below. Use your own dictionary or find the meanings online; write the meaning against each word that you have listed.

The table below has some words which you have probably not heard or read before. Use your own dictionary or an online dictionary to help you match the word to its meaning.

There are two extra words that are not in the text above. If you had to put each in brackets next to its meaning, where would you put them?

How can archaeologists and anthropologists help us to know and understand ancient Indigenous Australian cultures?

Activity 1.2: Observe, discuss, conclude



Petroglyph, Ku-ring-gai Chase, Sydney NSW

Image Source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c1/Ku-ring-gai_Chase_-_petroglyph2.jpg

Look carefully at the image of the Ku-ring-gai Chase petroglyph provided above.

What process was used to create this image in the rock?

Give your reasons for making this suggestion.

Hints:

Remember to use the “language of explanation” such as “I made this decision because I observed From this/these, I figured out that

In a more formal response, you would write in the third person, past tense so that your sentences would be similar to the answer to this question: What was the weather like when the photograph was taken? Explain. The answer would read: Several of the indentations in the rock appear to be filled with a liquid as (or because) they are reflecting more light than the surrounding rock. Therefore, it can be assumed that there had been rain recently in that area.

Activity 1.3: Web Search – Petroglyphs in your Area?

For at least 60 000 years, Indigenous Australians who were talented artists and story tellers shared their knowledge and understanding through the records they left on the rocks. Unfortunately, in many parts of Australia today, these stories, with the knowledge and understanding involved, have been lost. However, the art records on the rocks remain.

This activity has shown you an example of a petroglyph that is found in Sydney, NSW. However, there have been and still are, Aboriginal people living all parts of Australia. Perhaps there are rock engravings in your local area?

There are many websites which can help you to begin the search for these engravings, and, possibly, understand the meanings of these engravings, in the place where you live. Perhaps your teacher will help you to find local Indigenous people who can tell you about the purpose of these engravings?

This has a summary of sites for you to investigate! A brilliant collection of information – http://austhrutime.com/australian_archaeological_sites.htm

OR

Use the following words in an Internet search engine such as Google

“Petroglyph Indigenous Australian” followed by the name of Your State or town

Questions:

What evidence have you found of petroglyphs in your area?

What do these petroglyphs represent? What stories do they tell?

If you cannot answer part b, suggest some steps you could take to find an answer.

Activity 1.4: Making petroglyphs – Sandstone is a soft rock?



Honeycomb Weathering

Sandstone with honeycomb weathering. The wind carrying salt grains from the ocean and sand from the beach has carved out holes in the rock.

Image Source:

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/11/HoneycombWeatheringCambrianIsrael.jpg/1280px-HoneycombWeatheringCambrianIsrael.jpg>